Vansadhara Project in A.P.

1245. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have given site clearance to Andhra Pradesh Government to go ahead with Vansadhara Project Stage-ll;

(b) whether the project involves construction of barrages over river Vansadhara near Neredi and Orissa State has maintained that this is violation of the bilateral agreement between the two States;

(c) whether the Centre has taken the Orissa Government into confidence before granting clearance for the above project; and

(d) if not, what is the action plan of the Centre to redress this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The Ministry of Environment & Forests has granted site clearance for the Vansadhara project Phase-ll of stage-ii on 10th January, 2006 for survey & investigation by the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) According to the application for site clearance submitted by the Government of Andhra Pradesh for the above project, the proposal for the construction of a barrage at Neradi has been dropped to avoid submergence of land in Orissa State.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise, in view of reply to part (b) above.

Freehold of L.P.G.

†1246. SHRI HARISH RAW AT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that forests of hilly regions of the country, including Uttaranchal State, are under constant heavy pressure due to use of wood as firewood;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether in order to protect environment and stop the use of firewood freehold or subsidized L.P.G. are being considered as an option; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The people of the hilly regions of the country, including Uttaranchal State, collect dried and fallen wood from the forests apart from lopping the branches of trees. The pressure is considerable and an adverse effect on the forests and environment cannot be ruled out.

(b) and (c) The Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) namely, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPC) and IBP Company Limited are marketing subsidized domestic LPG throughout the country. In order to encourage use of LPG by the people living in rural/hilly areas of the country including the State of Uttaranchal, OMCs have also introduced domestic LPG cylinders of 5 kg. In addition, some areas in the vicinity of Corbett Tiger Reserve have been provided L.P.G. in subsidized rates:

Year	No. of LPG in subsidized rates
2001-02	100
2002-03	120
2003-04	210

Mega food parks

1247. MS. PRAMILA BOHINDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to set up mega food parks across the country with a view to exploit the potential of food processing industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the food parks that are proposed to be set up in Orissa?